

Remarks

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-9, 11-17, 20, 21, 23-27, and 29-35 are currently active in this case. Claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 14, 20, 24-27, 32, and 33 have been amended, Claims 34 and 35 have been added, and Claims 2, 3, 10, 18, 19, 22, and 28 have been canceled by way of the present amendment. Each new and amended claim is supported by the specification and claims as originally submitted and no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Official Action, the drawings and Claim 13 were objected to; Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as lacking an antecedent basis; Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 14-16, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over *Moulsley* (U.S. Patent No. 6,407,993); Claims 5, 9, 17, 20, 21, 23, 32, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Moulsley*; Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Moulsley* in view of *Tiedemann, Jr. et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,209, hereinafter *Tiedemann*); and Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Moulsley* in view of *Scheibel, Jr. et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,212,240, hereinafter *Scheibel*).

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter in Claims 3, 10-13, 19, 22, 24-26, and 28-30.

Applicants have corrected the drawings as requested by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action.

Applicants have corrected the claim numbering (13. To 33.) as requested by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action.

Applicants have amended Claim 13 for increased clarity. Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to Claim 32 is now moot.

Applicants have amended or drafted each of the independent Claims (Claims 1, 6, 14, 20, 24, 25, 26, 34, and 35) to include subject matter already identified as allowable. New Claims 34 and 35 include the allowable subject matter previously identified in each of original Claims 28 and 29 respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 USC 102 and 103 are now moot and that each independent Claim and each of the corresponding dependent Claims (2-5, 7-9, 11-13, 15-17, 21-23, and 29-33) are patentable over the cited art references.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and it is respectfully submitted that this case is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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